

In the Claims:

1. A method ~~of~~ for managing an incoming call ~~of~~ to a subscriber terminal, said terminal providing access to resources of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and data terminal access to online resources of a packet network, the method comprising:

accessing said packet network to ascertain ~~asecertaining~~ an online network status of the subscriber terminal, said accessing said packet network comprising accessing one of an IP network, an Ethernet, a LAN, and a WAN;

indicating the arrival of an incoming call to the subscriber terminal during an online operation of said subscriber terminal by generating a message to said subscriber terminal; and

according to subscriber preferences, performing one of the steps step of

(a) forwarding the incoming call to voicemail,

(b) forwarding the incoming call to a forwarding number, and

(c) activating an options selection menu at said subscriber terminal to provide the subscriber with options to handle the incoming call, said options including at least one of forwarding the call to a specific number, handling the call via a VoIP service, and sending the call to voicemail.

2. Canceled.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the ~~asecertaining~~ accessing, ~~indication~~ indicating, and performing steps occurs at one of a local exchange carrier, at a private branch exchange, or at equipment situated on the subscriber's premises.

4. The method of claim 1, further including storing the subscriber preferences in a memory, where said preferences include at least one of a call forwarding number, a voicemail directive, and an Internet call waiting directive.

5. (Presently amended.) The method of claim 1, further including the step of dynamically enabling at least one of said indicating, forwarding, and activating in accordance with an ~~on-line~~ online status of the subscriber.

6. Canceled.

7. Canceled.8. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing comprises

extracting subscriber preference information from a network database, and  
executing at least one call handling step in accordance with said subscriber  
preferences.

9. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said generating a message to said  
subscriber terminal comprises generating a message directing the display of a notice  
viewable on a display monitor associated with said subscriber terminal.